Were Richard Nixon a generous man, as I think he is not, and had he given Xmas gifts widely through the policy echelons of his administration, then in 1968 it was 1984. His people have by now learned it well. They practise it seemingly spontaneously, persuasively, believingly, and seem genuine in the softly-spoken assertion that domination and control are freedom and lack of control.

One of the better examples is Clay Whitehead's recent policy statement about the "independence" os local TV stations, put in terms of their accountability to the federal governmment when their licenses come up for renewal for what they air, especially in TV news. In an appearance on CBS TV a.m. news today Whitehead mentioned, for all thex world as though there is such a thing, "elitist" commentary. He really meant -and he would specify no case, saying everybody knew them- that nobody would dare to comment on an official statement. Coming so soon after Kissenger's election-oriented falsehood about the closeness of peace such correlations are fairly obvious. Kissenger had more recently done t e same thing with the end of negotiations, and the media have been airing the bestiality of the renewed aerial attacks on civilians in VN.

Each of the network a.m. newscasts this morning had xxxxx segments on Sirica's ordering the LATimes reporters to jail without permitting appeal for not turning over their outtake tapes on Baldwin.

(Interestingly enough, NBC and CBS both had Teddy Kennedy's appearance before the B'nai Brith yesterday in which he said that if the administration does not end the war, Congress will legislatively. I think it significant that such an establishmentarian audience gave him strong applause when he said this -twice in what was aired - and nowhere else in what was aired. When this new attack on the press comes with the most vicious bombings of the war, the obvious relationship should not be ignored.)

Whitehead looks and talks like a successful preacher, and he is quiet in his manner. He delibers his fascism in such moderate tones and with such Orwellian reversal that it seems reasonable to those who do not think it through. He pretends that there can be no question about the factuality of what isn't so.

Just before this he had led the administration's onslaught against Public Television, using a similar formula, local independence of the network. In non-Orwellian English, this means that the local outlets will have no means of presenting the kinds of information that can be provided only by a network. If they had some of the means, as in New York, and if there were no other pressures against it, they'd soon enough not have the funds.

Huey Long said it, fascism comes wrapped in the flag.

There is now going on a more centralized, omnipresent and determined assault on any kind of free society than has been noted in any source I've seen. I have seen no suggestion of deliberate design. In a less organized, less overt way all this was clearly visible four years or more ago, when I began to write COUP.

I have and will hold the Whitehead tape for a short while, if you would like it.

HW 12/20/72